

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** June 14, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on June 7, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response (Train Derailment), Potterville, Michigan**

On May 27, 2002, a Canadian National train with 58 cars derailed in Potterville, Eaton County, Michigan. Of the train cars, 12 contained liquified petroleum (propane) gas (LPG) and 2 contained sulfuric acid. The derailment was severe and nine of the LPG cars were among those derailed and damaged. Both of the sulfuric acid cars were also impacted, one severely. A 1-mile evacuation was ordered, which included approximately 2,200 residents. Initial assessment of the scene indicated that at least one of the tank cars was leaking LPG. The assessment also indicated that sulfuric acid was not leaking, nor was any oil or fuel. Throughout the day on May 27, 2002, control zones were established and atmospheric monitoring was conducted via four remote monitoring stations to measure atmospheric conditions for explosive environments. Monitoring would be continuous for the duration of the response. Hand-held monitoring was also conducted on scene.

On May 28, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mark Durno responded to the scene to oversee clean-up and mitigative activities which included off-loading, vent-flaring, and decontamination of LPG railcars; and, off-loading and decontamination of sulfuric acid railcars. The evacuation lasted until May 31, 2002, due to the presence of leaking LPG railcars.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

**Emergency Response (Ferric Chloride), Clean Harbors  
Environmental Services, Cleveland, Ohio**

On May 31, 2002, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Anita Boseman responded to a release of 132 gallons of ferric chloride at the Clean Harbors Environmental Services Plant in Cleveland, Ohio. The release was caused by a leaking pipe from a storage tank to a batch tank at the plant. Upon investigation, the release was secured, the leaking pipe was replaced, and the contaminated soil was excavated and placed in 55-gallon drums for disposal. The release remained on Clean Harbors' property. Clean Harbors will forward a copy of their incident release report to U.S. EPA and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Contact: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)

**Emergency Response (Mercury Spill), Princeton Avenue Site,  
Flint, Michigan**

On May 21, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor responded to a private residence on Princeton Avenue in Flint, Michigan, at the request of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Mercury vapors within the house were 4-15 times the acceptable health limit. A repairman had noticed large pools of mercury within the furnace. The resident notified the local fire department, who in turn, contacted the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD). The source of the 6-8 ounces of mercury is unknown. The residents voluntarily relocated.

U.S. EPA's Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor decontaminated the residence from May 22-25, 2002. The furnace and all associated duct work, first floor carpeting, and sections of drain pipe in the basement were removed; elemental mercury was collected with a specialized mercury vacuum; all of the residents' personal belongings were screened for mercury vapor; and, all hard surfaces within the residence were washed with a special mercury cleaning product. On May 25, 2002, clean-up confirmation air samples were collected, and the results on May 26, 2002, indicated that the residence was fit for reoccupation. Restoration activities were completed on May 29-31, 2002, and the residents were allowed to return to the home on May 31, 2002, after the health agencies were notified of the analytical data. Air monitoring activities will continue at the residence over the next several weeks in order to ensure the residual mercury vapor levels continue to decrease.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

**Removal Complete, Laurel Jackson Paint Site, Laurel, Indiana**

On June 5, 2002, the removal action at the Laurel Jackson Paint site was completed. The removal action, which was initiated on February 21, 2002, included the removal of 1,405 partially buried and subsurface drums from a residential yard in Franklin County, Indiana. Drums contained waste solvents and paint waste which contained elevated levels of volatile organic compounds and metals. Approximately 3,300 tons of contaminated soil was removed for off-site disposal. The site is approximately 3 acres in size and was the location of the Jackson Paint Company in the 1960's.

Contact: Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

**Oil Removal Complete, Energy Lease Services Site, Dale, Illinois**

On April 25, 2002, U.S. EPA mobilized to the Energy Lease Services site in Dale, Illinois, to begin a removal action at the inactive oil production facility. The site consisted of nine aboveground storage tanks, an in-ground concrete bunker with an estimated storage capacity of 240,000 gallons, and a bottom sediment/crude oil brine pit with a storage capacity of 250,000 gallons. The site is located up gradient and within 100 feet of a drainage ditch which drains into a tributary of the North Fork of the Saline River which eventually drains into the Ohio River. The oil located in the cracked concrete bunker and vertical tanks could pose a significant and substantial threat of release into the navigable waterway.

During the removal action, kiln dust was brought to the site to stabilize the bottom sediment and crude oil material located in the bunker. Crude oil in the aboveground storage tanks were also pumped to the bunker area to be stabilized with the kiln dust. All liquids were removed from within the aboveground storage tanks. The water in the bottom sediment/crude oil pit was treated onsite with a filtration system that included activated carbon, lime, and a filter sock. This filtration system removed the naturally occurring radioactive material that was found in the water and allowed the water to be discharged. The remaining bottom sediment/crude oil material was also stabilized with kiln dust. The stabilized material was left onsite. The site was then given top soil, graded, and seeded to prevent ponding and erosion. Demobilization was completed on May 21, 2002.

Contacts: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)  
Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Removal Start, Jackal Scrap Site, Canton, Illinois**

On April 29, 2002, the U.S. EPA initiated a fund lead removal at the Jackal Scrap Company site in Canton, Illinois. The site is a former scrap yard which was in operation for over one hundred years and which filed for bankruptcy in 2001. During the site assessment elevated levels of heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in the soils. During this removal action up to 4000 cubic yards of contaminated soils will be removed. Additional sampling and proper segregation of the contaminated soils should result in a 75 percent (\$500,000) cost reduction for transportation and disposal. Once the contamination is removed the area will be backfilled and graded.

Contact: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

**Remedial Investigation Start, Sauget Area 2 Site, St. Clair County, Illinois**

On June 4, 2002, the Sauget Area 2 site Group began remedial investigation (RI) activities at the Sauget Area 2 site located in St. Clair County, Illinois. The site as a whole consists of five inactive disposal areas (disposal sites O, P, Q, R, and S) adjacent, or in close proximity, to the Mississippi River. The RI will include a comprehensive investigation of waste in the disposal areas; definition of the extent of migration of site related constituents via the soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment and air pathways; and determination of constituent concentrations in aquatic and terrestrial biota.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS****Website and Compliance Assistance Tools Developed for Marinas**

Compliance assistance tools for use by marinas have been developed under the Marina Oil Pollution Prevention Education Seminars (MOPPES) project. MOPPES is a result of a Cooperative Agreement with the BoatU.S. Foundation and the Region 5 Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program to educate marina owners and boat owners in order to reduce the frequency and quantity of petroleum spills to the Great Lakes. In addition to seminars that are conducted for marina owners, a sample SPCC Plan was designed for marinas which is available in hard copy, on disk and on line. A website ([www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas](http://www.epa.gov/region5oil/marinas)) was designed specifically for marina to address their particular needs,

provide information, answer their questions, allow them to register for marina seminars online or download the sample SPCC Plan and to link them to other valuable sites (i.e., HQ Oil Program center website, BoatU.S. Foundation website). The BoatU.S. Foundation focuses on educating the marina owner so they can, in turn, pass the information onto their patrons and help to prevent or minimize spills. BoatU.S. presents practical information about products which are available to the marinas which can either eliminate spills at the fuel dock or boat fill port or contain spills which occur, and provides *free written* information to the marina owner for distribution to the boater. Over half of the marina owners have requested these hand-outs to distribute to their boaters this Summer.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)  
 Edgardo Munoz-Parrilla (312-353-1076)  
 Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

#### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

##### **Meeting, Regional Response Team, St. Paul, Minnesota**

On May 29-30, 2002, a meeting of the Regional Response Team (RRT) took place in St. Paul, Minnesota. Linda Nachowicz co-chaired the meeting for U.S. EPA. Attending were representatives from U.S. Coast Guard, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Transportation-Research and Special Programs Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service. Presentations by U.S. EPA staff included a discussion of U.S. EPA's analysis of environmentally sensitive areas and a discussion of a new Operations Manual, both led by Ann Whelan, and a discussion of the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) seminar program for marinas by Barb Carr. Other topics discussed were assets available to help with in situ burning, the Atlantic Strike Teams role in the World Trade Center and Hart Office Building responses, and the joint Canadian-U.S. equipment deployment exercise at Isle Royale.

Contacts: Linda Nachowicz (312-886-6337)  
 Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)  
 Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)  
 Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

##### **Unannounced Exercises, Williams Pipeline Company & Koch's Flint Hill, State of Minnesota**

On May 29-31, 2002, the Oil Planning and Response Section conducted two unannounced exercises. The first was at Williams Pipeline Company in Mankato, Minnesota. This exercise included 11 volunteer fire departments, the State Chemical Assessment Team, the Blue Earth County Sheriff, and the State Police. The County Mobile Command Post was also brought to the site. The scenario focused on response to a fuel oil spill into a ditch which flows through a culvert to a creek.

The second exercise was at Koch's Flint Hills refinery in St. Paul, Minnesota. The scenario was gasoline spilled into a ditch that leads to a culvert that leads to a wetland. Flint Hills' response was conducted by their own onsite fire department. Both exercises were successfully completed.

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)  
Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

#### **Tabletop Exercise, Marathon Ashland, Rockford, Illinois**

On June 6, 2002, Marathon Ashland Petroleum (MAP) conducted a tabletop exercise at the Holiday Inn in Rockford, Illinois. U.S. EPA was invited to participate in the exercise. There were also representatives from the Fire Department, the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA). The exercise was facilitated by the MAP Emergency Preparedness Group. The scenario was a catastrophic tank failure of a 4 million gallon gasoline storage tank that resulted in over 650,000 gallons of gasoline breaching the secondary containment area and entering Kent Creek, which runs alongside the facility.

In the tabletop exercise, MAP Rockford Terminal Manager was the first person on-scene and immediately made the proper notifications to their district office participants. The District Office then made the additional required notifications, such as to call the National Response Center and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to report the spill. MAP then simulated mobilization of their Level II Response Team, and the response transcended from Incident Command to Unified Command System (UCS). The strategy that MAP used to address the spilled oil was to boom off the creek in several locations in attempt to stop the spilled gasoline from reaching the Rock River.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

#### **Meeting, Table Top Exercise, Romulus, Michigan**

On June 5, 2002, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency

Preparedness and Prevention, along with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair and Romulus Emergency Manager, Margaret LeDuke, co-chaired the second meeting focusing upon the upcoming LEPC Risk Management Planning (RMP) exercise in Romulus, Michigan. Members from local emergency response organizations, the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) II contractor, Roy F. Weston, and the Woodbridge Romulus Corporation participated. An exercise scenario was developed and a time line created leading up to the exercise. The date of the exercise was set for August 7, 2002, with an alternate date of August 14, 2002. START II member, T.J. McFarland, will be the point of contact for correspondence or messages concerning the exercise. After the meeting ended, Mr. McFarland and Mr. Cekus visited the Woodbridge Romulus Corporation to get firsthand knowledge for the exercise design. Facility representatives, David Clark and Ed Paluch, provided a tour of the facility and answered questions pertaining to facility processes, chemical inventories, safety procedures, and other areas that would be used in developing the exercise scenario.

Contact: Glen Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Visit (Daqing Petroleum Company, China), Region 5, Chicago, Illinois**

On June 5, 2002, a delegation from the Daqing Petroleum Company in China came to visit U.S. EPA Region 5 to learn how U.S. EPA deals with the oil and gas industry in the United States. Daqing Petroleum is a large oil exploration company located in the Daqing, China. Daqing City is located in the middle of the Songlun plain in Heilongjiang province and is China's largest oil well field. A general overview of the U.S. EPA Region 5 Oil Spill Program was given to the visitors. Barbi Lee gave a presentation on oil spill response and cleanup, Ting Wu gave a presentation on the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures regulations, and Alex Tzallas gave a presentation on the Facility Response Plan regulations. In addition to the Oil Spill Program, David Soong, from the Water Division, provided a presentation on the U.S. EPA's National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System program.

Contacts: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)  
 Ting Wu (312-886-7178)  
 Alex Tzallas (312-886-0622)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Thank You (Bonnie Eleder), Contaminated Sediments Action Plan Signed**

Robert Springer, Director, Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division, sent an email expressing thanks to Bonnie Eleder for support in the production of the Contaminated Sediments Action Plan signed by Linda Fisher on June 6, 2002, as follows:

"Bonnie,

Thank you very much for the excellent support for the Agency's efforts to produce the Action Plan. I know how much the Agency relied on you and the insights from your team to produce the

Action Plan. Congratulations to you and the team on a job well done!

Bob"

Contact: Bill Muno (312-886-7578)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
Mike Cook (OERR)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers